

Serial No.: 10/768,225  
Filed: Jan. 30, 2004

Remarks

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 18, 25, 34, 45, 46, and 47 to more particularly set forth the invention. The following claims remain in the present application:

Independent Claims: 1, 13, 25, 34, 42–47

Dependent Claims: 2–12, 14–24, 26–33, 35–41, 48, 49

Re-examination of the present application is requested. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Interview Summary Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.133(b)

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks Examiner for the courtesy extended during the examiner interview of September 20, 2006. At that interview, Applicant's representative, inventor Michael Mikich, and Examiner Chen discussed Morrison, Vaught, and Griswold in relation to the claims. Applicant's representative pointed out that Applicant and Examiner appeared to be interpreting “panel” differently. Applicant's representative suggested amending the claims to more specifically describe the nature of the claimed “panels.” Specifically, Applicant's representative suggested that the panels of the claims could be distinguished from the planks shown in Vaught in that Applicant's panels are formed from elongate members, thereby creating three levels of construction: elongate members which form a panel which forms a platform. Examiner also suggested that specific language describing the connection of the panels, namely the edge-to-edge relationship of the connection, may distinguish over the art which does not such a connection.

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Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Applicant respectfully reminds Examiner that claims 42–44 have already been found allowable. In accordance with the discussion during the examiner interview of September 20, 2006, Applicant has amended the remaining independent claims to highlight the features that distinguish the claimed invention over the cited references.

Conclusion

For the reasons advanced above, all pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should Examiner believe that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned would invite and request such an interview.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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